

Post Operative Gastrostomy Tube Guide

A gastrostomy tube (GT) placed in your child's stomach to provide nutrition and medication.

Date of gastrostomy tube placement: _____

Surgeon: _____

Type of device: _____

Size: French (diameter): _____ fr. Stem (length): _____ cm

Amount of water in the balloon: _____ ml

Date 12 weeks after surgery: _____

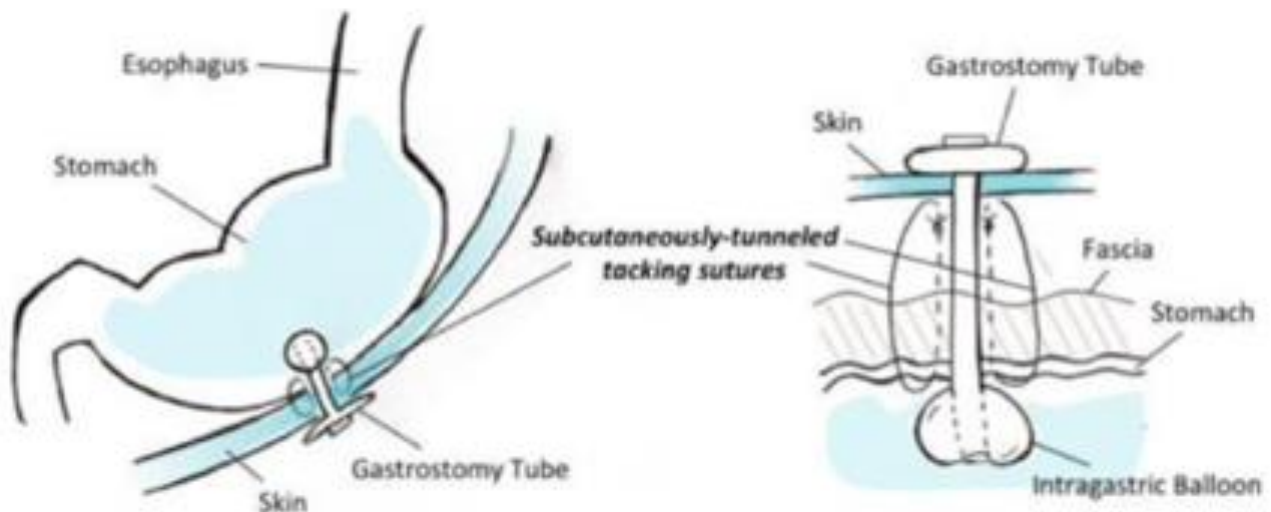
A gastrostomy tube has two places to add liquids called ports: a feeding port for administering feeding/gavage and medication and a balloon port for filling up the balloon with water.

Cleaning the site

Cleaning around the gastrostomy tube with normal saline for the first 7 days then use soap and water daily. Keep the site dry and clean. If some leaking occurs, apply one gauze square split in the middle. Please change the gauze when soiled/wet to prevent any humidity/infection at the site.

- Shower: permitted 2 days after surgery.
- Bathing: your child can have a bath 5 days after surgery.
- Swimming: 4 weeks after surgery.
- Rotate button 360 degrees daily beginning 10 days after surgery.

*Unless otherwise indicated by your surgeon or healthcare team.



IMPORTANT

Dislodgement LESS Than 12 Weeks after surgery.

This is an emergency You must present to the Montreal Children's Hospital Emergency Department **as soon as possible** to avoid the tract from closing on its own. If the MCH is not near you, please present to your nearest Emergency Department. Do not attempt to replace the gastrostomy in the stomach. Please bring your emergency kit and your spare gastrostomy tube to the Emergency Department.

Dislodgement MORE Than 12 Weeks after surgery

Place a spare gastrostomy with water soluble lubricant at a 90-degree angle and inflate the balloon to the indicated amount of water. If you do not have a spare gastrostomy tube, place a urinary catheter with water soluble lubricant in the stoma at least 10cm. Size: _____ Fr. Inflate balloon of catheter with _____ ml of water, pull up gently on the tube, securely tape the urinary catheter to the abdomen and place a urinary catheter stopper at the end of the catheter. If you do not have a spare gastrostomy tube or urinary catheter or if you have difficulty inserting either into the stomach, you must present yourself to the Montreal Children's Hospital (MCH) Emergency Department **as soon as possible** to avoid the tract from closing on its own. If the MCH is not near you, please present to your nearest Emergency Department. Please bring your emergency kit and your spare gastrostomy tube to the Emergency Department.

Changing water in the balloon.

You will be able to change the water in the balloon **after** your appointment with your surgeon typically 6-8 weeks after surgery. The water in the balloon will need to be changed every week afterwards to ensure the gastrostomy tube is secure. **Unless otherwise indicated by your surgeon or healthcare team.*

Granuloma/hypergranulation tissue

Granuloma/hypergranulation tissue is a tissue that appears due to movement of the gastrostomy tube on the abdomen and moisture. It is normal for a granuloma/hypergranulation tissue to have non-odorous sticky secretions varying in color - yellow, tan, green, or dark brown. If there are secretions and/or bleeding, apply one gauze square split in the middle. Please change the gauze when soiled/wet to prevent any humidity/infection at the site. Please contact your primary care provider and they will be able to prescribe medication such as silver nitrate, steroid puffer or cream.



MCH Clinical Protocol: Treatment of hypergranulation tissue with silver nitrate

Leaking around the gastrostomy tube site

Leaking of feeding/gavage and stomach content around the gastrostomy tube site can occur.



Leaking may be caused by the following:

- Improperly filled balloon
- Gastrostomy tube need to be resized
- Granuloma/hypergranulation tissue
- Skin breakdown or wound dehiscence

If there is leaking, apply one gauze square split in the middle. Please change the gauze when soiled/wet to prevent any humidity/infection at the site.

Please speak to your primary care provider to discuss the cause and solutions for leaking.

Urgent concerns:

- If your child is vomiting their feeding/gavage or medication
- redness to the abdomen that is hot, odorous, red or painful
- fever
- abdominal distension
- dislodged gastrostomy tube **less than 12 weeks** after surgery
- unable to reinsert gastrostomy tube/urinary catheter **more than 12 weeks** after surgery
- unwell and/or if you are concerned for your child's health

Please present to the Montreal Children's Hospital (MCH) Emergency Department **as soon as possible**. If the MCH is not near you, please present to your nearest Emergency Department.

Non-urgent concerns

Please contact your primary healthcare team at: _____

or the Pediatric Surgery department at the Montreal Children's Hospital at (514) 412-3242 (Monday-Friday 8:00-16:00)

Appointment with Pediatric Surgery

Your appointment with your surgeon will be typically 6-8 weeks after surgery.

Date and time: _____

Location: B 02. 3343 (North)

Supplies

Programme Ministériel d'alimentation

programme.ministeriel.hsj@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

Montreal Children's Hospital- Home Enteral Feeding Program

Paed-hefp@muhc.mcgill.ca

Family and patient resources

Reconnect line: you will be able to reach by telephone registered nurses for questions and/or concerns two weeks after a hospitalization at (514) 412-4433.

Complex care at home for children website: <https://complexcareathomeforchildren.com/enteral-nutrition/>